

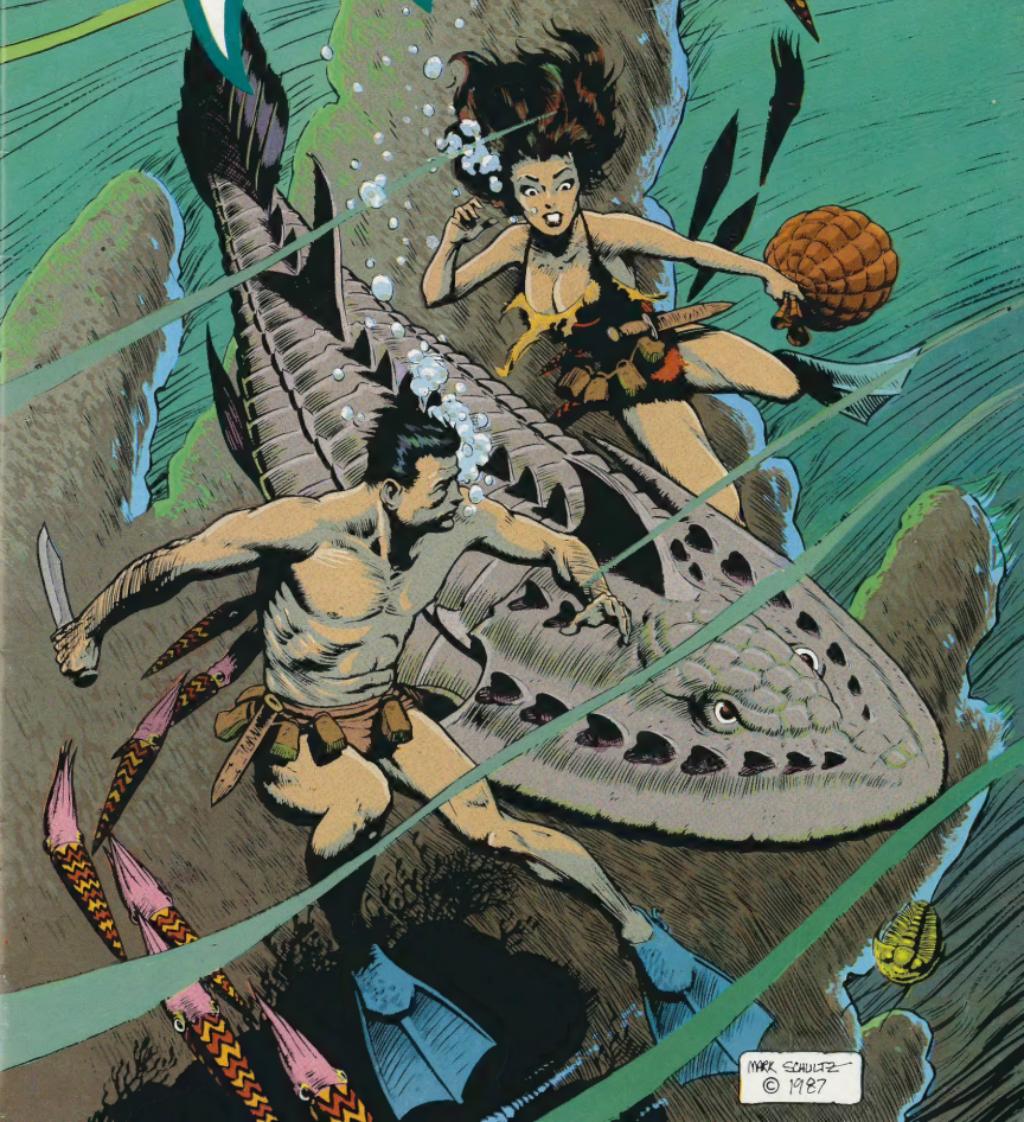
PHENOCOZOIC TALES



No. 5

\$2.00

\$2.60 Canada



PRECAMBRIAN TIME

PERIOD
CAMBRIAN
ORDOVICIAN
SILURIAN
DEVONIAN
MISSISSIPPIAN
PENNSYLVANIAN
PERMIAN
TRIASSIC
JURASSIC
CRETACEOUS
TERTIARY
QUATERNARY

Some think the seeds of the Cenozoic's cataclysmic demise were sown as early as the eighteenth century. What is known is that by 1987 A.D., the series of geological upheavals that would signal the unprecedented fall of an era had already begun.

Although the enormous pattern and unfortunate cause behind the global catastrophe would not be discovered until many years later, by the early twenty-first century, mankind had begun its retreat from an increasingly inhospitable surface to the safety of vast subterranean shelters.

By 2020 A.D., the churning, spitting Earth came to a boil. Billions died and entire species were consumed. The few surviving humans huddled in their scattered iron and steel tombs and waited...

Four hundred and fifty years after it had sealed itself off, mankind returned to the daylight, and was greeted by a radically altered world...A world that logically should not exist...A world fully populated by an unprecedented, eclectic ecosystem!

Now, come with us through beauty and terror, mystery and paradox. Come with us to the...

MILLIONS OF
YEARS AGO

570

500

435

410

360

330

290

240

205

140

65

2

0

XENOZOIC ERA

Editor

DAVE SCHREINER

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2nd story pencils & inks

STEVE STILES

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Cover color

RAY FEHRENBACH

Publisher

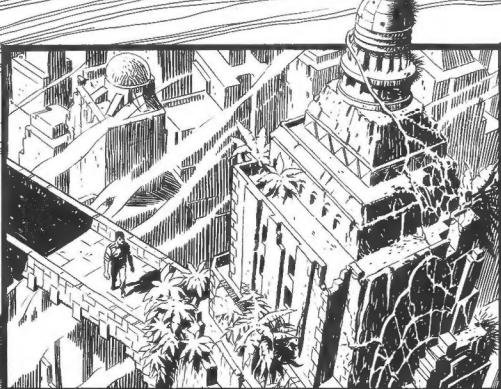
DENIS KITCHEN

Writer & Artist
MARK SCHULTZ

XENOZOIC TALES No. 5, February 1988. Published by Kitchen Sink Press, Inc., No. 2 Swamp Rd., Princeton WI 54968. Entire contents copyright © 1988 by Mark Schultz. All rights reserved. Any resemblance to any person living or dead is unintentional. Price: \$2.00 U.S.; \$2.80 Canada. Letters: We gotta have 'em. Why are you depriving us? Haven't we given you the best years of our lives? Ingrats! All will be forgotten if you write, and hurry before the postage goes up. Retailers: contact us for distribution information. Collectors and readers: Write us for free catalog of our other fine books, magazines, comics, posters, buttons, etc. available. If you need back issues of *Xenozoic Tales*, we got 'em. Watch for Issue No. 6 in May, 1988, when that lovable space cadet Remfro takes off into the very wild blue yonder. Printed in U.S.A.

*WELCOME BACK TO
THE XENOZOIC!*

IT IS THE SECOND DAY FOLLOWING
THEIR ADVENTURE IN THE CITY'S
TREASURE VAULTS. NOW JACK
TENREC MOVES TOWARD AN
EARLY MORNING CONFRONTATION
WITH HANNAH DUNDEE. SO
DOES THE WEB OF CIRCUMSTANCE
CONTINUALLY DRAW THE
UNsuspecting TOGETHER...



MARK SCHULZ
© 1988





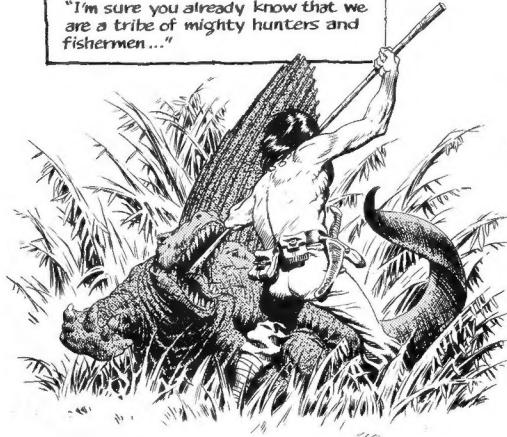
WE THOUGHT YOU'D LIKE TO KNOW THAT THE...uh...MOLES HAVE ALL BEEN ROTATED TO THE SURFACE. THEY'RE NOT VERY HAPPY TO BE TOPSIDE AGAIN, BUT THEY'LL HAVE TO LEARN TO ADJUST. SEEMS THEY BECAME A LITTLE ... INTROVERTED DOWN THERE.







"I'm sure you already know that we are a tribe of mighty hunters and fishermen..."



"But we are also a tribe of *scholars*... descended directly from the great lords of the ancient world."



"As such, we preserve and pass on as much of the ancient disciplines as are remembered. Our city... unlike yours... was left with no pre-cataclysmic writings. We have composed all our texts from *memory*."



"Through contact with poachers driven from the north, we learned of your city's vaults...and the library."

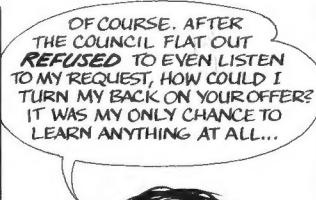
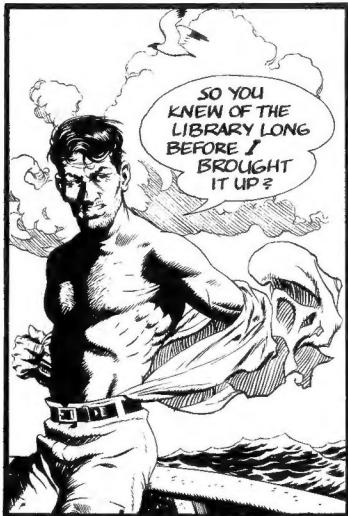
To a people with only a *spoken* tradition, the knowledge in those vaults...fixed...immutable... pulls like a magnet."



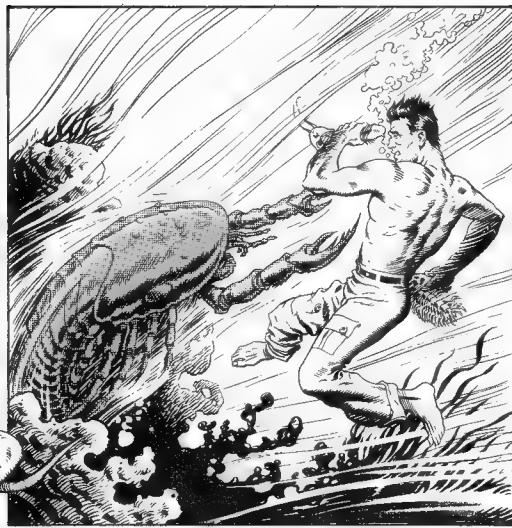
"The rest you can figure out..."

I WAS CHOSEN
TO OPEN RELATIONS
BETWEEN OUR TRIBES...TO
FORGE A TRADE AGREEMENT...
BUT MOST important, TO
NEGOTIATE FOR WASSOON
ACCESS TO THE
LIBRARY...

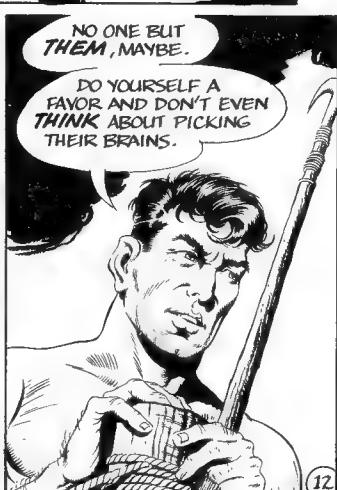
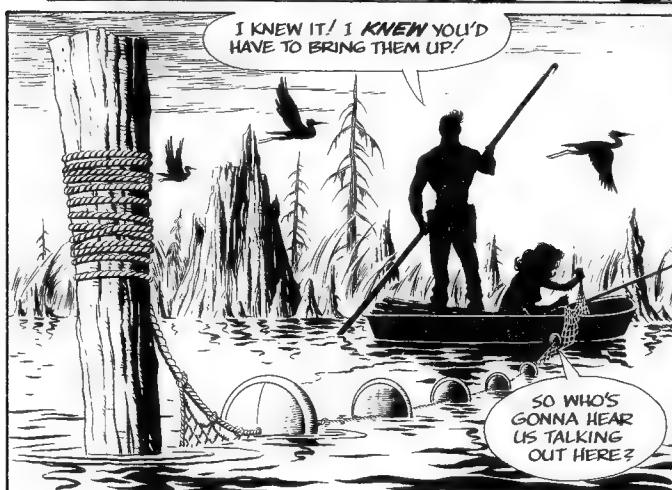




























Cover for No. 1 by Steve Rude! Exciting new dimension in comics: *Kings in Disguise* in March!

Coming in March, a new dimension in comics: *Kings in Disguise*, a six issue bi-monthly series.

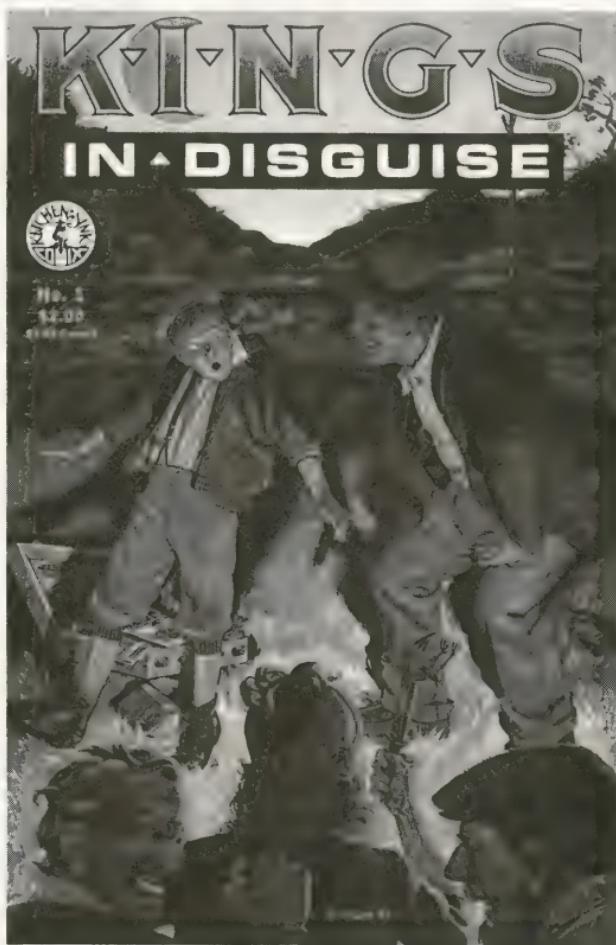
Writer James Vance and artist **Dan Burr** tell the story of a boy going on a cross country search for his father during the 1930s Depression. From his idyllic home in California, the boy hops freights and thumb's rides to industrial centers across the country. Along the way, he meets those who want to help him, and those who mean him harm. He comes face to face with real life, both good and bad. He makes the journey from innocence to manhood.

The cover artist for the first issue is Kirby award winner Steve Rude of *Nexus* and *Space Ghost* fame. Rude's painting is a new step in illustration for the artist, and it epitomizes the spirit of *Kings in Disguise*.

The spirit of *Kings in Disguise* is one of exploring new subjects and subject matter in comics. Both Vance and Burr are relatively new to comics, but both are experienced professionals. Vance as a playwright, and Burr as an illustrator. *Kings in Disguise* got its start as a play, performed a few years ago in regional theatre. Vance has taken the work and opened it up. The first two issues are an expanded version of the play, and the remaining four issues flesh out and complete the story. There is realistic action and adventure, performed by well-rounded characters. Vance's scripts are accessible and exciting.

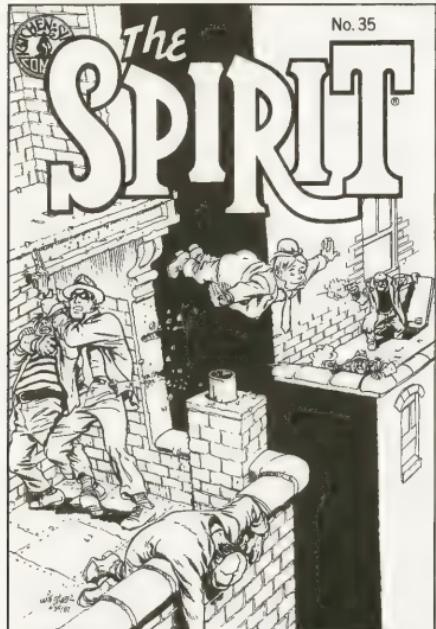
Dan Burr is a seasoned magazine and advertising illustrator, who has made a few comic book appearances in the past. His research and the wealth of detail he employs in drawing *Kings in Disguise* is revelation!

Kings in Disguise is an exciting new series, and we urge you to try it for yourself! It's coming in **March!**



Kings In Disguise #2 in May; Cover by Harvey Kurtzman!

TWO-FISTED SUBSCRIPTIONS!



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Steve Canyon

For great story and art, nobody can beat Milton Caniff and Will Eisner. And, each issue of *The Spirit* and *Steve Canyon* features the artists talking about their work.

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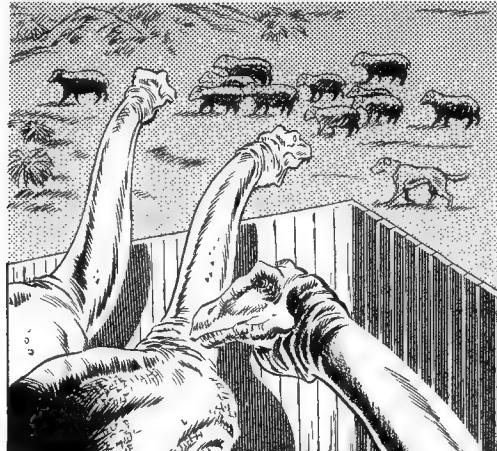
TXAKURRA IS A **FARM DOG** AND THAT MEANT HE MADE DO AS A **STOCK DOG**, A **GUARD DOG**, A **HUNTING DOG**, AND A **RETRIEVER**. IN AN AGE FILLED WITH UNCERTAINTY, ADAPTABILITY COUNTS FOR A LOT.

DOG'S LIFE



HE HERDED THEM OUT PAST THE STOCKYARD WHERE THE BEHEMOTHS GREW FAT FOR SLAUGHTER.

HE HERDED THEM UP INTO THE GRASSY HILLS, FAR BELOW, THE MASTER AND OTHERS TILLED HARSH VOLCANIC SOIL.



AS THE SUN BEGAN TO CLIMB, THE SHEEP SETTLED IN TO GRAZE. TXAKURRA MADE A WIDE CIRCLE AROUND THE FLOCK AND METHODICALLY RESTAKED HIS TERRITORY...



...A NICETY SOME OPPORTUNISTS IGNORED.



WHILE IT WAS STILL EARLY, A COUPLE FROM THE LOCAL PACK DRIFTED BY. THEY CAME OFTEN BUT NEVER CLOSE ENOUGH TO UNNERVE THE FLOCK. THEY WOULD NEVER CROSS TXAKURRA'S LINE... THEY UNDERSTOOD.



THEY SILENTLY CALLED TO THE FARM DOG, COAXING HIM TO THROW OFF HIS BONDS AND RUN WITH THE PACK.

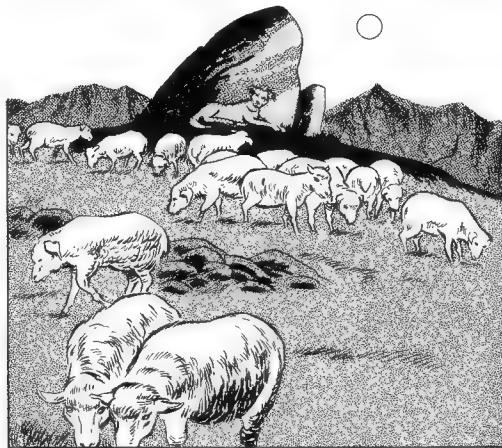


IF TXAKURRA WAS MOMENTARILY TEMPTED, HIS CHARGES DID NOT NOTICE THE LAPSE.

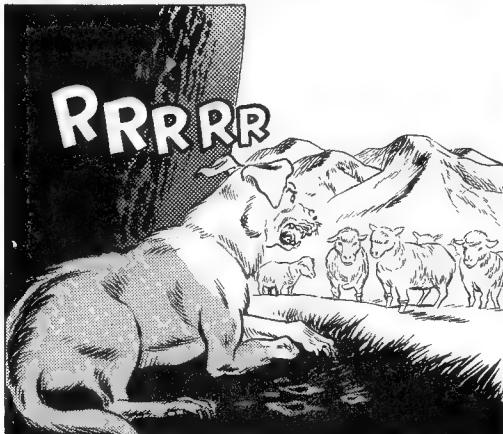
IN THE HEAT OF MIDDAY, MOST PREDATORS DISAPPEAR INTO THE COOL OF THEIR DENs.



THEN SOMETIMES THE SHEEP WOULD GROW LESS CAUTIOUS... EVEN BOLD... AND BEGIN TO STRAY.



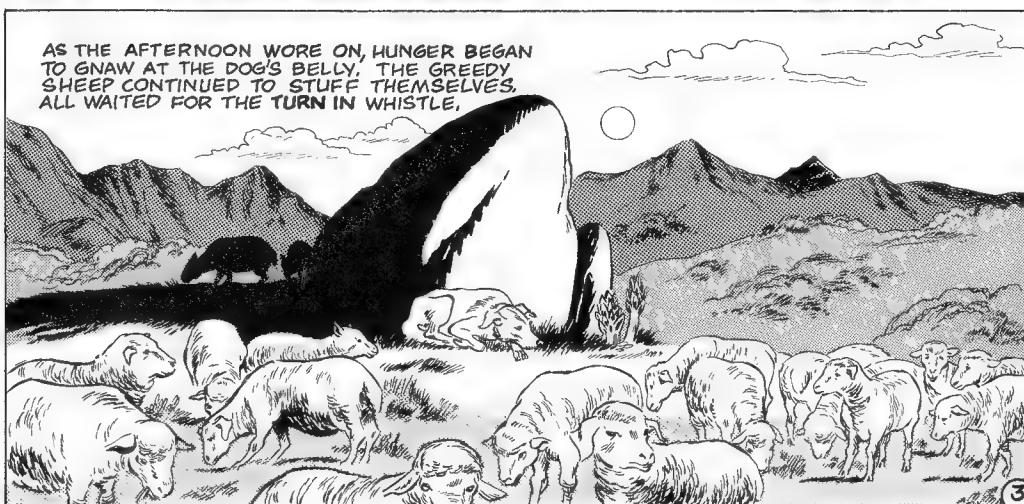
TXAKURRA COULD REMEDY THIS WITHOUT MOVING. HE MERELY PRETENDED SOME MENACE WAS NEAR...



... AND THE SHEEP WOULD COME BACK TOGETHER. IT WAS A GOOD JOKE AND EFFECTIVE, THE SHEEP NEVER CAUGHT ON.



AS THE AFTERNOON WORE ON, HUNGER BEGAN TO GNAW AT THE DOG'S BELLY. THE GREEDY SHEEP CONTINUED TO STUFF THEMSELVES. ALL WAITED FOR THE TURN IN WHISTLE.



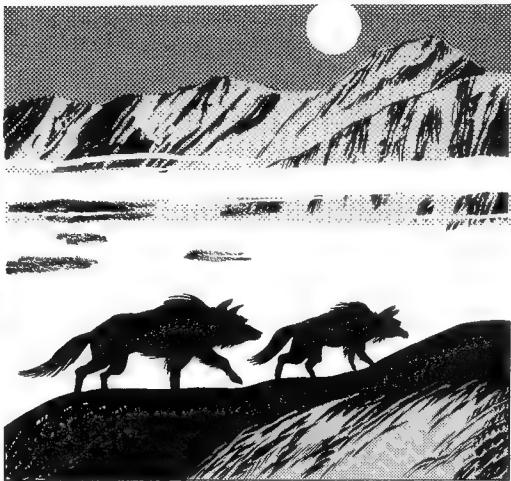


THIS WAS THE MOST UNEASY TIME FOR A DOMESTIC IN SUCH CLOSE DAILY CONTACT WITH THE WILD.



THEIR SCENT AND THE WEIGHT OF THEIR PRESENCE PRESSED DOWN ON THE FARM DOG,

THEY CAME AGAIN SHORTLY AFTER MOONRISE,



IN THIS HOUR, WHEN HIS DUTIES WERE CONCLUDED FOR THE DAY, THE HOLES IN HIS LOYALTY WERE FILLED WITH LONGING FOR THE PACK,



INSTINCTS HELD IN ABEYANCE
BEGAN TO WELL UP,



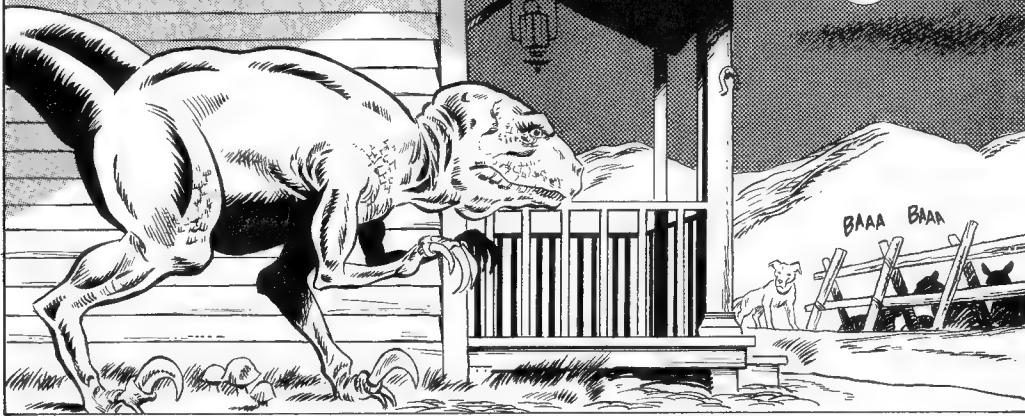
TONIGHT THE WILD CALL MIGHT
HAVE BURST HIS CHAINS OF
SERVITUDE...



...EXCEPT FOR ONE THING...



WITH ALL THE STEALTH AND CUNNING OF HIS KIND THE CUTTER HAD GLIDED INTO THE FARMYARD DOWNWIND FROM THE DOG AND THE FLOCK.



CONFUSED FOR ONLY A SPLIT SECOND, THE DOG CHARGED THE INTRUDER.



NEVER BEFORE HAD THE WARY CUTTER VENTURED THIS CLOSE TO THE HAUNTS OF MEN. HUNTING IN THE HIGH PLAINS HAD BEEN VERY POOR.



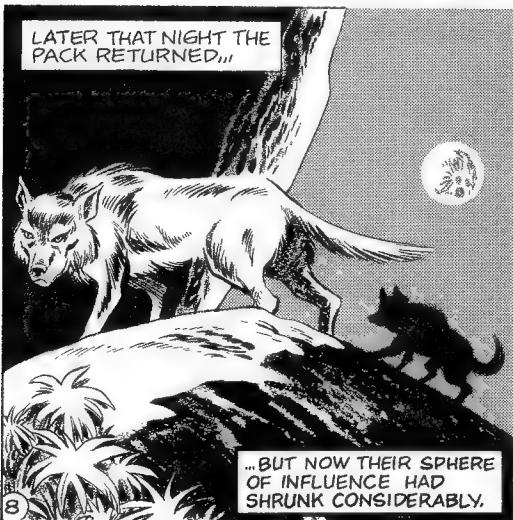
ALL MEMORY AND LONGING FOR THE PACK MELTED FROM TXAKURRA AS HE CONFRONTED THIS DANGER TO HIS FLOCK.



HE SOUNDED THE ALARM AND GRIMLY DUG IN TO DIVERT THE BEAST UNTIL HELP ARRIVED.







Coming this month:
Flash Gordon, the
daily strip produced
by Dan Barry and
Harvey Kurtzman
in 1952. With
appearances by
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Frazetta! 128
pages, softcover &
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FLASH GORDON



Presenting—the Best Comic
Strip of All Time, Now Back
in Print Again: *Li'l Abner!*



Dailies:
1934-1935



In April, our first
volume of Al Capp's
Li'l Abner will go on
sale! Covering 1934 &
1935 of the daily strip,
Volume One launches
a quarterly publication
schedule which will see
the *complete* reprinting
of this great, landmark
strip! At your shop, or
through subscription!

Order your signed & numbered Steve Canyon hardcover now!



40th
Anniversary

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CANIFF'S

STEVE CANYON



It's 144 pages long.
It has 3 stories.
It's a beautifully bound
hardcover.
And—best of all, it's
signed & numbered by
Milton Caniff himself!

It's the 40th anniversary issue of *Steve Canyon*, and Kitchen Sink Press is celebrating with this great book, *limited to 900 copies!* It's the only book Caniff has ever consented to sign, so it's a rare, wonderful keepsake from a master of the medium!

But that's not the best part. The book will contain 3 separate and complete stories from 1953 and 1954. Featuring: Copper Calhoon, Doagie Hogan, Princess Snowflower, Holly Hall, Happy Easter, & a cast of thousands!

As usual, Caniff himself will be talking about the adventures inside, and, as a bonus, the creation of the strip itself! *Plus*, there'll be promo art by Caniff that introduced *Steve Canyon* in 1947!

Kitchen Sink Press ★ 2 Swamp Rd. ★ Princeton WI 54968

Steve Canyon 40th Anniversary hardcover is \$39.95, plus \$2 shipping (\$41.95 total). Check, MO or Mastercard/Visa accepted.

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If you're a fan of great art and story, you won't want to miss this book! Coming to your shop in DECEMBER! Or, you can order from us.

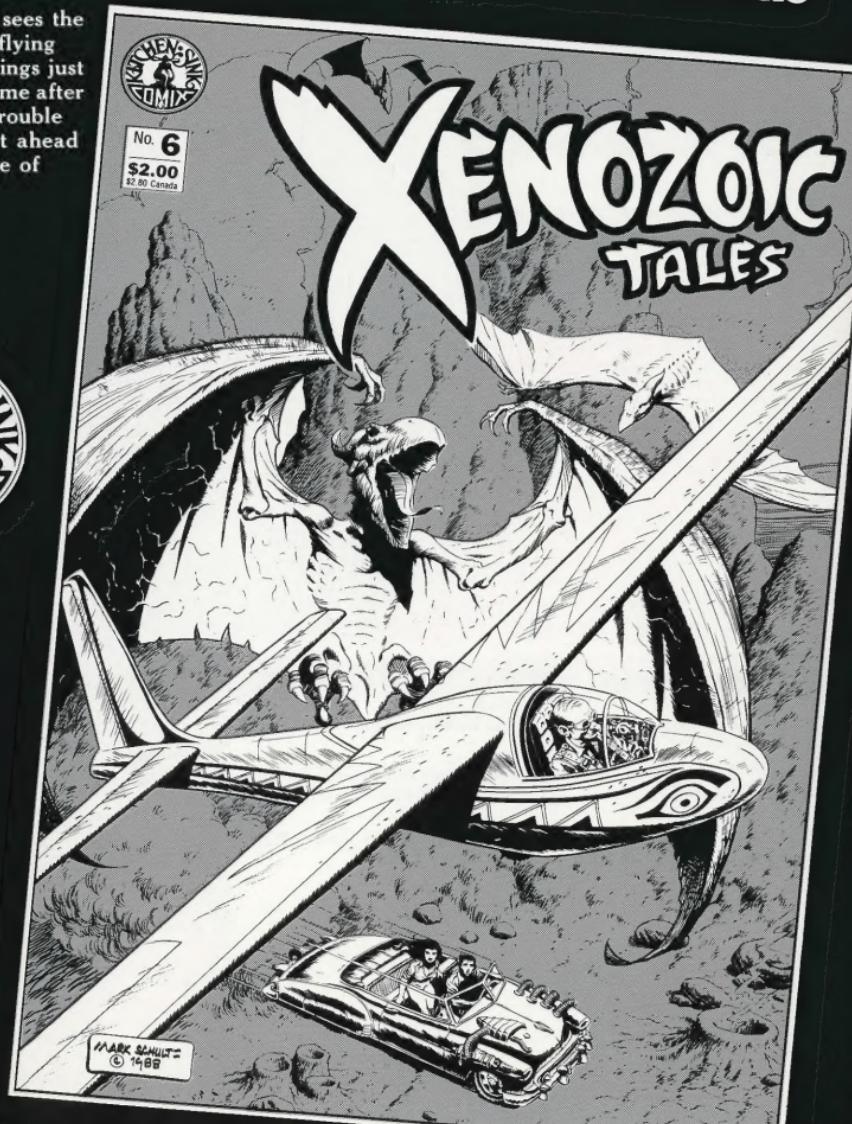
Next Issue:

In May's issue 6 of
Mark Schultz's *Xenozoic Tales*
Remfro and Hannah resurrect a
sailplane, and Jack helps
repair it!

Suddenly, the
Xenozoic Age sees the
rebirth of the flying
human, and things just
won't be the same after
that. There's trouble
and excitement ahead
in the new Age of
Icarus...

In May!

Sail away with
Remfro & friends





As Ordinary Record
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It's here—Central City's top hit song of 1946 and '47, "Ev'ry Little Bug," written by Will Eisner, along with other great tunes and surprises! It features all-new Eisner art plus the original art for the sheet music, printed on both the front and back of a fine record album, under clear vinyl. Musician and *Spirit* fan John Christensen has filled both sides with great, catchy music, including five versions of "Ev'ry Little Bug," original music tied to *The Spirit* and promo ads from the short-lived 1948 *Spirit* television show! It all comes in a sturdy mylar sleeve and it's at your favorite shop NOW, or you can order from us! There's never been anything like this!



Kitchen Sink Press ★ 2 Swamp Rd. ★ Princeton WI 54968

Yes! Send me the unique and beautiful full color *Spirit* picture disk! I enclose \$12.98 each plus \$2 shipping (\$14.98 total) for the disk!

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LOOKS great,
SOUNDS great,
& it's
ON SALE
NOW!

History of "Ev'ry Little Bug"

The song first saw the light of day in *The Spirit* section of June 9, 1946, in the story "Poo's Tondstool Facial Cream," or "Love Comes to The Spirit." It was written by Will Eisner for Gam, a piano player, to noodle while the action spun around him. The song became a running gag in following sections, being sung by, among others, Parelli (with Italian accent), Murmansk Manny (Russian) and Robert Merrill (light opera). It was finally adopted by Ebony as his theme of unrequited love. In "Ev'ry Little Bug," of April 7, 1947, the song was finally set to music, by Bill Harr, and the sheet music was printed at the end of the story. No one has ever recorded the song that was on everyone's lips in Central City in 1946 and 1947—until now!